

## Family Supports

The Family Support Program was developed to assist families to care for their relatives in their family home. All individuals who are eligible for services through the regional centers are eligible to apply for Family Support Services. The goal of the Family Support Program is to prevent costly out-of-home placement by assisting the family in caring for their relatives. Any charges for services are determined by using a sliding fee scale. However, most individuals can become eligible for funding support and will not have to pay fees. The service coordinator will explore these options with the person.

The Family Support Program provides the following services to consumers and their families:

- Respite
- Purchase of Service Supplements (POS)
- Clinical Assessments
- In-Home Training Services
- Counseling
- Family Preservation Program (FPP)

Respite provides temporary care in or out of the family home. Respite gives families a break from the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for their loved ones. Families receive respite vouchers to use for providers of their choice. The amount of the voucher is based on the person's support needs, the service plan, and the available funding in the regional office.

Families choose their respite providers and select the days and times when they want to use their vouchers. Families may use their allotments all at once for a vacation or in small monthly increments. The choice is up to the family.

Purchase of Service Supplements (POS) are provided to families to assist them with the excess costs of services for their relatives. All alternative funding sources and existing resources must be used by the family before the POS is issued to them. Families who request a POS must meet financial guidelines to receive vouchers from the DS agency. The POS is available to eligible families one time per year, for a maximum purchase of \$300. The family can use the voucher with any vendor or provider that accepts it. The service/goods are provided to the family and the State Agency is billed for the service. Examples of items that can be purchased with the voucher include such things as:

- Medical/dental services not covered by insurance
- Special diets, clothing, special equipment
- Car seats, beds, special furnishings
- Recreation, leisure needs, respite

- Food, rent, utilities

Clinical Assessments are available to individuals who are in need of evaluations by a social worker, psychologist, or nurse, or other professional. The assessments provide information that can be used to assist the individual's support team to help the person plan supports, obtain a job, etc. A sliding fee scale is used to determine if the individual is responsible for any costs. Medicaid and private insurance companies will be billed for the covered individuals who use the service. Families who are uninsured or who are unable to pay for the services will not be required to do so when alternate funding is available through the regional center.

In-Home Consultation or Training is available to people and their families who request assistance in their home with teaching skills that can help the family to adapt to their relative's special needs. The in-home consultant can work with individuals and their families in such areas as communication, positive behavior supports, skills acquisition, etc. The family identifies the needs with assistance from the service coordinator. Training or consultation can be provided on a short or long term basis depending on the person's needs and the availability of funding at the regional center.

In-Home Supported Living provides assistance to people living with family members to learning skills related to home and community living. Services are provided by provider organizations or other individuals of the person's and family's choice. In-home support services are directed toward helping the person develop a variety of living and recreational skills. Services are provided in the person's home or community, with the goal of enhancing the individual's ability to be as self-sufficient as possible and utilize available community options.

Counseling is available to individuals and their family members to provide support and guidance. The individual and/or the family can choose the counselor and most services can usually be billed to Medicaid, private insurance or other funding sources that may be available at the regional center. A co-pay may be charged if the person is able to contribute to the cost.

Family Preservation Program (FPP) provides monthly financial aid to qualified families caring for their relatives with severe or profound disabilities in the family home. The financial assistance can be used for a variety of needed services as the family decides. The monthly allotment may vary from family to family and is determined by using a sliding payment scale and the available funding in the state budget.

Individuals and their families who want to apply for Family Support Programs should contact their regional center service coordinator (case manager) for more information or contact the local regional center to apply for services.